

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 /057 W

----- 051641

R 250818Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4965

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH, TW

SUBJECT: ROC'S STAND ON RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS"

1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 24 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO A CNA DESPATCH ENTITLED "RELEASED WARCrimINALS" "ARE MAO'S TOOLS." THE CNA DESPATCH QUOTED "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT THE GROG HAS CONSISTENTLY WELCOMED "ALL ANTI-COMMUNIST FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO COME TO FREE CHINA." BUT THE RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS" HAVE "REPEATEDLY MADE EXTREMELY ABSURD COMMENTS IN HONG KONG TO APPEASE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS." "IF THEY HAVE THEIR OWN FREE WILL, THEY WOULD MAKE CLEAR THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-MAO STAND, PLEDGING TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF MAINLAND RECOVERY AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. AND IF THEY WANT TO COME TO FREE CHINA, THEY SHOULD TAKE THE USUAL LEGAL PROCEDURES."

2. AN APRIL 24 CHUNG HUA JIH PAO EDITORIAL SAID THAT IF THE "WAR CRIMINALS" OPENLY ANNOUNCED THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST STAND AND APPLY FOR ENTRY PERMITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, THEY WILL BE WELCOMED. BUT IF THEY WISH TO ACT AS TOOLS OF PEKING'S UNITED FRONT OPERATIONS, "WE CERTAINLY WILL  
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REJECT THEM."

3. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN'S RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE SO-CALLED WAR CRIMINALS DURING HIS APRIL 18 PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS CARRIED IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA POST ONLY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE PRESS HERE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE EXISTENCE OF THE TEN RELEASEES WAITING IN HONG KONG.

4. THE BREAKING OF THE STORY IN THE PRESS AS WELL AS RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND A HIGHLY-PLACED KMT OFFICIAL INDICATE THAT THE GROG HAS REACHED A FIRM DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT THE TEN "WAR CRIMINALS" UNLESS TWO CONDITIONS ARE MET: A) THEY PUBLICLY EXPRESS THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST STAND AND B) THEY APPLY FOR ENTRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROC LAW. THESE PRECONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY THE FORMER, ARE LIKELY TO MEET WITH WIDE APPROVAL HERE SINCE ACCEPTANCE OF THE TEN ON AN UNCONDITIONAL BASIS WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY MANY AS THE FIRST STEP IN OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH THE PRC - A STEP WHICH WOULD RUN DIRECTLY COUNTER TO GIMO'S "WILL" AND OFT-DECLARED POLICY OF PREMIER AND KMT. UNGER

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